

# MOVIE 'PONZI' FACES LIFE JAIL TERM

## Records Reveal He Is Ex-Convict; Police on Trail

By BRENT MARK  
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When Dr. Edmund Gaston Camille de Regnier, arch-international adventurer and wooer extraordinary, is brought to the bar of justice again for his latest venture in the realm of shadow financing, he may receive sentence for life.

For the redoubtable doctor who disappeared last Sunday after leaving the employees of the Maxmount Film Productions with thousands of dollars in rubber checks can add to the list of his previous residences that of Sing Sing and a jail in Philadelphia.



A search of the records in the office of the Court of General Sessions has revealed that Dr. Edmund C. Gaston (he often dropped the de Regnier appendage) was indicted for grand larceny in May, 1925, and convicted a month later on charges preferred by William Thomas, a radio dealer of 7 Hamilton Place, who said he had received from the doctor a worthless draft on a Swiss bank for \$175.

### Received a Parole

Pending trial, Dr. Regnier resided in a cell in the Tombs, since he was unable to raise the required bail. After conviction, Judge Morris Koenig sent him for a two year sojourn in Sing Sing. He stayed there less than a year, getting out on parole for good behavior.

A similar conviction was recorded against Dr. Regnier in a court in Philadelphia. But there the judge was more lenient. Sentence was at first deferred, and later he was discharged.

With the record of two convictions and his violation of parole, Dr. Regnier is subject to the provisions of the Baumes law, passed by the last Legislature, which permits the courts to sentence habitual offenders to life terms.

At the time of his conviction in New York, Louis Fabricant, who was assigned by the court to act as Regnier's attorney, declared that Regnier was a "victim of grandiose illusion, given to exaggeration and with an exaggerated ego."

His recent attempt to build up a super motion picture company on a capital of 23 cents and his luxurious existence for one month by successfully deceiving the shrewdest credit men of leading department stores in the city were cited as an instance of this.

### Regnier's History

An interesting and thorough history of Regnier is disclosed by a report of the Catholic Charities Probation Bureau, of which Edwin J. Cooley is chief. The report declares that Regnier attended several Swiss high schools at Lucerne and Zurich and finally the College of Nijon. His parents, prosperous and honored, reside at Balstahl, Switzerland.

The distinguishing characteristic of his life in college was his continual escapades. He led a "wild life" as a student, participating in much "carousing and jollity."

When the World War began he joined the Second Swiss Regiment of the French Foreign Legion, saw active service and was wounded in 1915. Later on he was transferred to the American Army and served in the Food Transport Service sent to Vienna at the close of the war.

He came to this country in 1920. The report states that shortly thereafter he married a motion picture actress, a widow with two

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## Girls Duped by Movie Magnate



AMONG THOSE who were left out in the cold when Dr. Regnier, movie "Ponzi," skipped out after organizing a movie company on 23 cents capital, was Sylvia Malden, sculptress (left). Miss Malden made masks of all girls who applied for movie positions. On the right is shown Virginia Horton, one of the applicants. (Photo Graphic.)

## Ford Gives 'Baron' A Ford, but He Gets It Back

WILMINGTON, DEL., Sept. 30.—Even Henry Ford can be fooled by a bogus nobleman into giving him a Ford, but when the disclosure arrived, Henry wanted that Ford back—and he got it.

Some time ago "Baron" G. Frederick Evon von Krupp, Jr., inspected the Ford plant at Detroit as the guest of the manufacturer. Mr. "Baron" told him that he planned to visit industrial plants. So Ford gave him a Ford.

But it was learned the "baron" was George R. Gabor, who is at present under arrest in the New-castle county workhouse. He is accused of passing worthless checks.

At Albuquerque, N. M., a Ford agency got the car and is waiting for further orders from Mr. Ford regarding its disposition. Ford had asked the police to get it for him.



Henry Ford

## Poison Alcohol For the Holidays, Mills Announces

Major Chester P. Mills announces some good news for the Christmas holidays—that is, good for the morticians.

Enough specially denatured alcohol has been withdrawn, he says, to make beverage liquor for New York to last through the coming holidays.

Although he knew where it was an dthat it was being illegally "re-natured" and made potable, he was powerless to seize it at present because it had been withdrawn on legitimate permits.

## Detective Chief Falls For Regnier Plots, Also

By ADA BURACK

Not only movie stars, gullible department store credit agents and other dealers fell for the smooth tongue of Dr. Edmund Gaston Camille de Regnier, Swiss physician and erstwhile member of the French Foreign Legion, The GRAPHIC has learned.

## Two Boys Fatally Hurt as Trucks Run Them Over

Herman Soflosky, 5, of 430 Norfolk St., was killed by a motor truck of the Colonial Dye Works, at Norfolk and Livingston Streets. The driver, Morris Koeing of 2134 Vyse Ave., The Bronx, was arrested on a technical homicide charge.

John Cuomo, 12, of 377 Hopkins Ave., Long Island City, who was struck by a motor truck last Tuesday night in 1st Avenue, in St. John's Hospital.

Roy Williams, 28, of 73 Squeezie St., Patchogue, L. I., a driver, was seriously injured when his motor truck skidded and crashed into an elevated pillar at Delancey and Allen Streets.

### TO WED AT OSSINING

The marriage of Miss Virginia Dorothea Morris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Morris of 71 Park Ave., to Lieut. Earle Hill Kincaid of Covington, Va., will take place at the country home of her parents in Ossining, N. Y., on October 9.

### MISS BURANELLI WEDS

The marriage of Miss Olivia Buranelli, daughter of Mrs. Vincent Buranelli and the late Mr. Buranelli of 3 West 92d St., to Damas De Witt Swan took place last night in the rectory of the Holy Name Church.

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